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(71)Applicant: SHIRAISHI CHUO KENKYUSHO:KK

TANIGAKI TEIICHI

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(72)Inventor: TSUKISAKA RYOGO

TANIGAKI TEIICHI **NUKUI TOKUZO**

MORITA HISAAKI

(54) REVERSED PHASE SUSPENSION POLYMERIZATION

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To produce a water-soluble or hydrophilic spherical resin having readily adjustable particle sizes and particle distribution, by the reversed phase suspension polymerization of a water-soluble monomer aq. soln. using an organic bentonite as a suspension stabilizer.

CONSTITUTION: A water-soluble monomer aq. soln. (preferably an aq. soln. contg. an ethylenic unsatd. carboxylic acid, etc.) contg. a water-soluble crosslinking agent (e.g., N,N'-methylenebisacrylamide) and a water-soluble polymn. initiator [e.g., potassium persulfate or azobis-(4-cyanopentanoic acid)] is polymerized in a reversed phase suspension using a hydrophobic organic solvent (e.g., an aliphatic hydrocarbon or a halogenated hydrocarbon) usually at a ratio of the solvent: the water-soluble monomer aq. soln. of 1:0.1W1:5 in the presence of an organic bentonite as a suspension stabilizer to form a watersoluble or hydrophilic spherical resin. The bentonite is produced, e.g., by treating a smectite-contg. clay with a sulfonium salt type cationic surfactant, etc.

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